

13

Record of Proceedings
of the
INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL
FOR THE FAR EAST

Court House of the Tribunal
War Ministry Building
Tokyo, Japan

The United States of America, the Republic of China,
the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,
the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Commonwealth of
Australia, Canada, the Republic of France, the Kingdom of
the Netherlands, New Zealand, India, and the Commonwealth
of the Philippines

-Against-

ARAKI, Sadao; DOHIHARA, Kenji; HASHIMOTO,
Kingoro; HATA, Shunroku; HIRANUMA, Kiichiro; HIRO-
TA, Koki; HOSHINO, Naoki; ITAGAKI, Seishiro; KAYA,
Okinori; KIDO, Koichi; KIMURA, Heitaro; KOISO, Kuni-
aki; MATSUI, Iwane; MATSUOKA, Yosuke; MINAMI,
Jiro; MUTO, Akira; NAGANO, Osami; OKA, Takasumi;
OKAWA, Shumei; OSHIMA, Hiroshi; SATO, Kenryo; SHI-
GEMITSU, Mamoru; SHIMADA, Shigetaro; SHIRATO-
RI, Toshio; SUZUKI, Teiichi; TOGO, Shigenori; TOJO,
Hideki; UMEZU, Youshijiro;

-Accused-

Official Court Reporters

Jack Greenberg, Chief
Fred T. Abram
James F. Barton
Antoinette Duda
Samuel Goldberg
Robert B. Morse
John J. Smith
Daphne Spratt
Elvira Whalen
Julian Wolf
Lorraine Yelden

13 SEPTEMBER 1946

I N D E X
Of
WITNESSES

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I N D E X
Of
EXHIBITS

<u>Pros.</u> <u>No.</u>	<u>Def.</u> <u>No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>For</u> <u>Ident.</u>	<u>In</u> <u>Evidence</u>
474		Supplement to exhibit No. 469, balance sheet of Comm. of Conservators for Closed Institutions		5499
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1 Friday, 13 September 1946

2 - - -

3
4 INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL
5 FOR THE FAR EAST
6 Court House of the Tribunal
7 War Ministry Building
8 Tokyo, Japan

9 The Tribunal met, pursuant to adjournment,
10 at 0930.

11 - - -

12 Appearances:

13 For the Tribunal, same as before.

14 For the Prosecution Section, same as before.

15 For the Defense Section, same as before.

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19 (English to Japanese and Japanese
20 to English interpretation was made by the
21 Language Section, IMTFE.)
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THE MARSHAL OF THE COURT: The International Military Tribunal for the Far East is now in session.

THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Comyns Carr.

MR. COMYNS CARR: My friend, Mr. Hauxhurst, has an explanation for which the Court asked two or three days ago, which he is in a position to supply now. And, if it is convenient for the Court, it would be quite convenient for me that he should intervene for a few minutes with that explanation.

THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Hauxhurst.

MR. HAUXHURST: If the Tribunal please, the additional information to enlighten the Court on the figures of exhibit 469, which was under consideration last Tuesday, as far as they are available have now been obtained by me. In that connection, if it please the Tribunal, I would like to introduce into evidence prosecution's exhibit with the next number for the purpose of showing the explanations which I expect to make with reference to exhibit 469.

THE PRESIDENT: Admitted on the usual terms.

CLERK OF THE COURT: Prosecution's document supplementing exhibit 469 will receive exhibit No. 474.

(Whereupon, prosecution's exhibit No. 474 was received in evidence.)

1 MR. HAUXHURST: In connection with the se-
2 curing of these certificates from the Chairman of the
3 Committee for Closed Institutions in Japan, Mr. W.
4 N. Rogers, Assistant Chief of the Liquidation Branch,
5 Finance Division, who is acting under a SCAP direct-
6 ive dated September 30, 1945, has asked me to say
7 that these certificates are made only from such
8 records as the Committee of Conservators for the
9 Closed Institutions have in their possession in Tokyo,
10 Japan; and that the Committee of Conservators for
11 Closed Institutions had nothing to do with the opera-
12 tions of the Central China Development Co. Ltd. or the
13 North China Development Co. Ltd. prior to the issuing
14 of this directive.

15 This exhibit consists of two certificates,
16 one by Mr. SUZUKI, the Chairman of the Committee, cer-
17 tifying to the balance sheets of the Central China
18 Development Company and the North China Development
19 Company as of March 31, 1945. In view of the fact that
20 the figures which were in exhibit 469 can be easily
21 explained by following the balance sheets, I would ask
22 your attention to the balance sheet of the Central
23 China Development Co. Ltd.

24 The first item on the Assets side, "Invest-
25 ment and Loan account" of 4 billion, 971 million,

1 713 thousand, 250 yen is divided into three parts:
2 Investment in subsidiaries, 144 million, 61 thousand,
3 390 yen; that item appeared in exhibit 469 in exact
4 figures. The next two, loans and advances, which
5 aggregate 4 billion, 827 million, 651 thousand,
6 860 yen, is the figure that also appeared in exhibit
7 469.

8 On the liability side of the Central China
9 Development Company, at the top of the page, appears
10 "China Development Company debenture account,
11 ¥ 352,600,000.00." That was the item that the Court
12 was inquiring about.

13 THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Hauxhurst, you told us
14 that these were loans by the companies, and we asked
15 you to ascertain where the companies obtained the
16 funds from which the loans were made. That is all
17 we want you to explain, if you can do so from this
18 document.

19 MR. HAUXHURST: I can, sir. On that debenture
20 account just referred to, 334 million, 600
21 thousand yen was sold in Japan. In the next item, if
22 the Tribunal please --

23 THE PRESIDENT: Do not read **any** more long
24 figures if you can avoid it. You can use the expres-
25 sion "four billion odd," or something like that.

MR. HAUXHURST: The next item, "Borrowing account" of five billion yen.

THE PRESIDENT: Perhaps you had better make a statement or write out a statement, Mr. Hauxhurst, and give it to us this afternoon. Make it as brief as possible and avoiding long figures.

MR. HAUXHURST: I could make this one explanation.

THE PRESIDENT: My colleagues, who have been reading the document, say that on its face it indicates the source of these moneys. If we need further assistance, we will let you know, Mr. Hauxhurst.

MR. HAUXHURST: Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Do you take the view -- I do not know whether you do or not -- that on its face the documents disclose the source of the loans?

MR. HAUXHURST: Yes, sir, except that there are certain items, for instance, overdrafts of thirteen billion dollars, that they do not have the information here in Tokyo because the North China Development Company was located in Peiping, and they do not have the figures available. There are certain items --

MR. BROOKS: Mr. President, on the part of

the defense, on the first part of this certificate it shows the custody of the original records that this is taken from is only a partial group of original documents, that some of them have been destroyed; but I think the defense will agree that in the bottom part that the question the Court was deciding on that first page of where the money that they loaned came from, a large quantity of it has been borrowed from the banks as set out in the last paragraph thereof: started borrowing accounts, Yokohama Specie Bank and the Industrial Bank of Japan.

MR. HAUXHURST: May I leave two figures with the Court, taken as summarized from exhibits 471 and 470: that in China, 419 business bodies plus the investment of the Japanese Government in these two companies amounted to round figures of 298 billion yen, and in Manchukuo, 18 billion yen, a total of 316 -- 317 billion yen.

I wish to thank the Tribunal for this privilege and to say that that will close any further testimony on this phase of the case unless the Court should require further information which we will be very glad to furnish.

MR. BROOKS: Mr. President, we believe that

1 the prosecution should have placed more material on
2 the exports from these areas into Japan, or the im-
3 ports into Japan from either side of the ocean, to
4 show the relationship between the amount being re-
5 ceived and the amount of capital investment going
6 in as shown by the imports. I believe that would be
7 very material, and defense will try to bring that
8 out.

9 THE PRESIDENT: Well, if it be material,
10 the balance sheet reveals that most of the money --
11 nearly all of the money -- loaned by the companies
12 was borrowed in China, and it suggests Chinese funds
13 are the source of the loans. That can be corrected
14 by the defense later if they have the material.

15 Mr. Carr.

16 MR. COMYNS CARR: When the Tribunal ad-
17 journed last night, I was reading exhibit 473, and I
18 was about to read a portion of it on page 10. I
19 think it is clear that this is one of the replies
20 to the demand for information on page 3 which I read
21 yesterday and which one of my friends pointed out to
22 me is dated July 29, 1944. The document I am going
23 to read is undated but bears the receipt stamp
24 "October 4, 1944."

25 THE PRESIDENT: Major Furness.

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1 MR. FURNESS: I would like to inquire from
2 the prosecution whether or not these documents which
3 are being introduced, document 1810-A, are part of a
4 general file or whether they purport to be all the
5 documents dealing with this particular subject.

6 MR. COMYNS CARR: The answer to my friend's
7 question is that they are part of a large file
8 obtained from the prisoner of war information bureau.
9 We have not been able to find on that file any other
10 documents bearing on this particular matter.

11 MR. FURNESS: I make inquiry, Mr. President,
12 because the certificate or statement of source and
13 authenticity refers to the file, "Concerning Treatment
14 of Prisoners of War in Burma and Siam," consisting of
15 572 pages, dated February 3, 1944, which is a date
16 prior to the date of any of the documents which are
17 now being referred to.

18 THE PRESIDENT: The prosecution should make
19 the whole file available to the defense, if the de-
20 fense so desire.

21 MR. COMYNS CARR: We have not the slightest
22 objection. Indeed, I was going to suggest it myself.

23 Now I propose to read the document.

24 "From: Chief of Prisoner of War Camp in
25 Siam.

1 "To: Chief of Prisoner of War Information
2 Bureau.

3 "Subject: Information re British prisoners
4 of war in Burma.

5 "I am sending you a report regarding the
6 facts A and B in Item No. 1 of the British protest
7 as stated in the Prisoner of War Supply No. 36.

8 "This matter concerns the sacrifice of the
9 administration of the prisoners of war for strategic
10 reasons and contains no material for refutation against
11 the enemy protest.

12 "Item following 'C' has no relation to us.

13 "Branch Camp No. 3 was opened in Burma
14 September, 1942 to intern 9,535 prisoners of war
15 transferred from Java. Branch Camp No. 5 was opened
16 in January, 1943 to intern 1,946 prisoners of war.
17 These camps are under the command of the Fifth Railway
18 Regiment and the prisoners of war were engaged in
19 constructing a railway between Burma and Siam. At
20 that time, provisions and rations were scarce. Quar-
21 ters and establishments were poor and medical facil-
22 ities were inadequate. Moreover, for strategic
23 reasons, it was necessary to complete the railway by
24 August, 1943, and the work was pushed forward at a
25 terrific pace, with the result that many prisoners

1 of war became ill and many died, as per attached
2 sheet.

3 "Following the opening of the railway to
4 traffic in October, 1943, all prisoners of war in
5 Burma were concentrated in Fanchana, Buri, Nonbodog
6 (phonetic) and Termacam, except a few who were to
7 assist the Railway Unit. Both the quarter facilities
8 and provisions have been improved at present and both
9 the number of patients and deaths have decreased
10 considerably."

11 And then follow two attached tables of
12 figures. The first is described as "Prisoner of
13 War Patients during the period between January, 1943
14 and July, 1944. (Investigated by Siam Prisoner of
15 War Camp.)" It purports to give for each month the
16 total number of prisoners of war employed, the number
17 of patients in Siam and their ratio to the total
18 number employed, the number of patients in Burma and
19 their ratio to the total number employed, and then
20 in total the number of patients and their ratio to the
21 total number employed. I will only call attention to
22 the first and last columns, the percentage of the
23 total number employed, who on their own showing were
24 patients or sick, in 1943, varied from 63.2% to 79.4%.

25 THE PRESIDENT: Major Furness.

WILD

DIRECT

MR. FURNESS: I would like to point out to the Court that that figure is obviously an error, an addition to the two ratios and is not a ratio of the total number of those employed.

MR. COMYNS CARR: My friend has not understood the scheme of these figures. The column for the ratio in Siam is the ratio of the sick persons in Siam to the total number stated to be employed not only in Siam but in Burma as well. In the same way, the ratio given for Burma is the ratio of the sick in Burma to the whole number employed. It is natural, therefore, that the final figure in the last column should be arrived at by adding the two ratios together. It will be important to note that the worst month of all was the month of October, 1943.

CYRIL HEW DALRYMPLE WILD,

called as a witness on behalf of the prosecution,
resumed the stand and testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION (Continued)

BY MR. COMYNS CARR:

Q Now, Colonel Wild, have you any comment to make on that table of figures? Does it seem to you to be approximately correct in accordance with your experience?

WILD

DIRECT

1 A It would appear to me to be approximately
2 correct.

3 Q Can you tell us whether in this report which
4 is made by the Siam Prisoner of War Administration,
5 the total figures given by him include F and H Forces
6 which were under the Malaya Prisoner of War Adminis-
7 tration?

8 A I think that they do because I do not believe
9 that the total number of prisoners of war went in
10 excess of fifty thousand during 1943.

11 C Now, will you look at the next table, No. II.
12 I need only ask you about the totals at the bottom,
13 which purport to show the total number of deaths in
14 Siam as 6,500, in Burma as 1,246, and in total,
15 7,746. What have you to say to those figures?

16 A It is quite clear to me that the total
17 figure of the deaths in Siam is an understatement.

18 C If it does not purport to include the figures
19 for F and H Forces, you told us yesterday, I think,
20 the deaths there would add another four thousand; is
21 that right?

22 A Correct.

23 Q It would still leave it about four thousand
24 under the figure you gave us yesterday of sixteen
25 thousand?

WILD

DIRECT

1 A Yes, it would.

2 Q Are you sure that all the deaths were
3 actually reported in the way you described yesterday?

4 A Certainly, in all areas where I was in Siam.

5 MR. COMYNS CARR: Now would the Tribunal
6 kindly turn back to page 7 of this document, which is
7 the last in order of dates and which is the reply of
8 the Chief of Staff of the Southern Army to the same
9 demand for information as the last one. (Reading):

10 "Dated 23 October 1944.

11 "From: Chief of Staff of the Southern Army.

12 "To: Chief of Prisoner of War Information
13 Bureau.

14 "Subject: Information re treatment of
15 British prisoners of war in Burma.

16 "I send you a report regarding the subject
17 mentioned above by the Prisoner Supply No. 36 dated
18 July 29, as I have received the following report:

19 "Dated 6 October 1944

20 "From: Commander of the Southern Army Field
21 Railway Unit.

22 "To: Chief of Staff of the Southern Army.

23 "Subject: Report re British prisoners of
24 war in Burma.

25 "I am sending you a report in reply to 'I'

WILD

DIRECT

SAN 3 Secret No. 336 concerning British prisoners of war in Burma (districts allotted for the construction of railway connecting Siam with Burma.)

"1. The number of patients and deceased prisoners of war who were engaged in the construction of the railway connecting Siam and Burma are as in Tables I and II. The prisoners of war include both British and Dutch and there is no way to investigate the British prisoners of war separately. For strategic reasons the completion of this railway was most urgent. Since the proposed site of the railway line was a virgin jungle, shelter, food provisions and medical supplies were far from adequate and much different from normal conditions for prisoners of war.

"During the rainy season of 1943, transportation was frequently interrupted and both Japanese soldiers and prisoners of war were obliged to put up with much hardship. The Japanese army Medical Corps tried in vain to stem the violent outbreak of malaria and sicknesses of digestive organs. However, with the opening of the said railway in October, 1943, both the number of patients and deaths diminished with the completion of provisions and facilities.

"2. I know nothing about the insulting of

WILD

DIRECT

1 British prisoners of war in Moulmein since Moulmein
2 is out of the work area."

3 BY MR. COMYNS CARR: (Continued)

4 Q Colonel Wild, what do you say about the
5 efforts there alleged of the Japanese Army Medical
6 Corps to stem the violent outbreak?

7 A I saw no signs of them.

8 Q And what do you say about the suggestion that
9 both Japanese soldiers and prisoners of war were obliged
10 to put up with much hardship?

11 A That is true in the sense that being in the
12 Siamese jungle in the monsoon is not pleasant for
13 anyone. In fact, there are many hardships, but these
14 hardships were not equally shared because the Japanese
15 had many facilities for overcoming them.

16 MR. COMYNS CARR: Now I desire to tender in
17 evidence prosecution's document No. 1509.

18 THE PRESIDENT: Major Furness.

19 MR. FURNESS: Before we leave exhibit No. 473
20 I would like to ask that the translation be checked.
21 I have already talked to the Language Section and they
22 say there is room for controversy and I therefore ask
23 that it be checked and referred to the arbiters in
24 accordance with the rules of the Court.

25 THE PRESIDENT: We direct it be checked.

WILD

DIRECT

1 This is a report by the Japanese Government
2 on the Burma-Thailand Railway. Admitted on the usual
3 terms.

4 MR. COMYNS CARR: I should have said No.
5 1509-A, I am told.

6 CLERK OF THE COURT: Prosecution's document
7 No. 1509-A will receive exhibit No. 475.

8 (Whereupon, prosecution's exhibit
9 No. 475 was received in evidence.)

10 MR. COMYNS CARR: This was a document pre-
11 pared by the Japanese War Ministry immediately after
12 the surrender of Japan and forwarded by them on the
13 19 December 1945 to the Supreme Commander, but prepared
14 of their own motion and not on demand. I need not
15 read the whole of it today at all events and there
16 can be no controversy about the translation because
17 the Japanese and English versions were supplied to-
18 gether by the Japanese War Ministry. There are,
19 however, in the English version, as supplied by them,
20 one or two mistakes in date which I will correct.
21 There are references in it to orders by Imperial
22 General Headquarters and I should like to state now
23 that it will be the prosecution's case that the
24 following accused were members of that body at the
25 material dates: TOJO, KIMURA, SATO on the military

5,514

WILD

DIRECT

1 side, and SHIMADA, NAGANO and OKA on the naval
2 side.

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MR. COMINS GARR (Continuing): Reading now
the first half of page 3:

(Reading).

"1. The so-called brutal treatment of
Allied prisoners of war during the construction of
the Siam-Burma Railway shall be divided into two
categories; (1) Misconduct in the form of direct
cruelty to the prisoners of war (the cases known as
maltreatment of prisoners), and (2) incidents involv-
ing a considerable number of deaths from illness
among the prisoners during the work. Cases coming
under the first category shall be dealt with as cases
of ordinary maltreatment of prisoners, whereas the
unfortunate incidents coming under the second were
caused under the circumstances that were unavoidable
during the waging of war. It should, therefore, be
noted that there is a distinct difference in charac-
ter between cases(1) and (2).

"2. In the present report, a plain state-
ment will be made of the actual state of affairs and
of the treatment of the prisoners of war which have
led to the comparatively large number of deaths from
sickness during the construction of the railway
under (1).

WILD

DIRECT

1 "Under Part 1 of this report the protests
2 made by the Allied Powers will be dealt with; under
3 Part 2 a description will be given regarding the in-
4 vestigations conducted into general affairs relative
5 to the prisoners' treatment and the special cases of
6 those under protest, and finally Part 3 will give the
7 measures taken by the Japanese authorities in respect
8 to the foregoing (2) (judicial decisions).

9 "With regard to cruelty directly inflicted
10 on prisoners under (1), no data are available in Tokyo,
11 and liaison with the Japanese troops on the spot is
12 at the moment virtually impossible, for which reason
13 the cases under (1) are excluded from this report. Ac-
14 cordingly it is hoped that inquiries will be made on
15 the spot by the Allied Powers in respect thereto."
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WILD

DIRECT

1 MR. COMYNS GERR (Continuing): Then I need
2 not read the next one and a half pages, but I come
3 down to the middle of page 5.

4 (Reading): "Tentative Translation of the
5 Oral Message dated July 4, 1944 from Swiss Legation,
6 Tokyo.

7 "By the letter dated September 15, 1944" --
8 '1944' should be '1942', correct date -- "addressed
9 to His Excellency General Hideki TOJO, the then
10 Minister of Foreign Affairs, and by the letter dated
11 December 9, 1944" -- '1944' should be '1942' -- "to
12 His Excellency Masayuki TANI, the Swiss Minister had
13 the honor to communicate the apprehensions which the
14 British Government entertained as to the maltreatment
15 accorded the prisoners of war at the Rangoon Camp.
16 The London Government furnished, at the same time,
17 a certain number of detailed facts relative to the
18 same treatment.

19 "By letter No 33/C R., dated February 1945" --
20 '1945' should be '1943' -- "His Excellency Foreign
21 Minister answered to the Swiss Minister that the
22 facts as mentioned on the above letter did not exist.

23 "The Swiss Minister never failed to convey the
24 contents of this letter to his Government in behalf
25 of the United Kingdom Government.

WILD

DIRECT

1 BY MR. CONYNS CARR (Continued):

2 Q Colonel Wild, was it true that the monsoon
3 began earlier than usual in that year?

4 A I believe it was the usual time.

5 Q Was that a subject of discussion between
6 yourself and the Japanese officers with whom you
7 had to deal on the spot?

8 A On information we had from officers who
9 had been in Burma and Siam before the war, we warned
10 the Japanese again and again that the monsoon was
11 about to break.

12 THE PRESIDENT: We will recess now for
13 fifteen minutes.

14 (Whereupon, at 1045, a recess was
15 taken until 1100, after which the proceedings
16 were resumed as follows.)
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WILD

DIRECT

1 "The Swiss Legation had the honor to
2 acquaint the Minister of Foreign Affairs" -- that
3 is to say, the accused SHIGEMITSU, "with the fact
4 that the British Government has, in a new communi-
5 cation made the following request to the Imperial
6 Government for information as regards the treatment
7 of the prisoners of war in Burma.

8 "1. First complaint concerns area of Moulmein
9 and falls under three headings:

10 "A. Notifications: According to postcards
11 printed by the Japanese Authorities, about 20,000
12 British and Allied prisoners of war are detained in
13 or near Moulmein. Transfer of prisoners of war to
14 this camp has never been notified; and it is believed
15 that capture of many prisoners of war now in this and
16 other Burmese camps has also never been notified.
17 Nor has any notification been received of numerous
18 deaths that are known to have occurred there.

19 "B. Conditions: Conditions under which
20 prisoners of war in Moulmein camp are detained are
21 known to His Majesty's Government to be at least as
22 bad as, if not worse, than those which existed in
23 Thailand (compare the letter of the Swiss Minister
24 to His Excellency Mamoru Shigemitsu, dated 5 July
25 1943).

WILD

DIRECT

1 "During October and November 1942, prisoners
2 of war in Moulmein itself are known to have died at
3 rate of approximately 10 per diem; the principal
4 cause of death being dysentery. In other camps ad-
5 ministered by the Japanese authorities in or near
6 Moulmein an even more appalling rate of mortality
7 has occurred amongst prisoners of war working on
8 that Burmese railway. These deaths are direct and
9 inevitable result of conditions in camps and in
10 particular of the wholly inadequate rations provided
11 by the Japanese authorities, of the latter's failure
12 to provide medicines or equipment in hospitals, of
13 almost complete lack of adequate clothing or even
14 footwear and of severity of labor exacted from
15 prisoners of war.

16 "C. Exhibition of prisoners: In February
17 of 1944, 25 prisoners of war were paraded through the
18 town of Moulmein. They were in an emaciated condition
19 and were forced to carry notices in Burmese stating
20 that they had recently been captured on the Arakan
21 front (which was not the case.) They were further
22 held up to ridicule and contempt by a Japanese officer
23 who accompanied the parade. Such proceedings are
24 clearly contrary to honorable standards of warfare
25 and unworthy of a nation calling itself civilized,

WILD

DIRECT

1 apart from being a breach of Article 2 of the Pris-
2 oners of War Convention.

3 "Letter dated December 4 1944 from Swiss
4 Minister to Minister of Foreign Affairs -- again
5 SHIGEMITSU -- (Protest by British and Australian
6 Governments) Tentative Translation of the Letter
7 dated December 4, 1944 from Swiss Minister to Mini-
8 ster of Foreign Affairs.

9 "I have the honor to acquaint Your Excell-
10 ency with the fact that the British and Australian
11 Governments have requested my Government to convey
12 the following communication to the Japanese Govern-
13 ment.
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WILD

DIRECT

1 "Some 150 Australian and United Kingdom sur-
2 vivors from the Japanese transport steamship 'Rakuyo
3 Maru' torpedoed in South China Sea on September 12,
4 have reached Australia and Great Britain. Following
5 is a brief summary of the knowledge which has conse-
6 quently come into the possession of His Majesty's
7 Governments in the United Kingdom and Australia re-
8 garding treatment of British and Australian prisoners
9 of war by Japanese military authorities; all available
10 prisoners of war in Singapore and Java were moved
11 early in 1942 to Burma or Thailand. Australians were
12 sent by sea to Burma crowded into ships' holds which
13 had been horizontally subdivided so that ceilings
14 were no more than 4 feet high. Prisoners from the
15 United Kingdom were sent by rail to Thailand so
16 crowded into steel cattle trucks that they could not
17 even lie down during the journey. They were then
18 marched some 80 miles. All were sent to work on the
19 construction of a railway through primitive disease
20 infected jungle in Thailand and Burma. Conditions
21 under which all these men lived and worked were in-
22 human; such accommodation as was provided gave little
23 or no protection against tropical rains or blazing
24 sun. Worn out clothing was not replaced and soon
25 many lacked clothing, boots and head covering. The

WILD

DIRECT

1 only food provided was a punikin of rice and a small
2 quantity of watery stew three times a day but work had
3 to go on without respite whatever cost in human suf-
4 fering or life. The inevitable result was a dreadful
5 death rate, the lowest estimate being 20 per cent.
6 These conditions continued until the railway was
7 finished about October, 1943, when those not needed
8 for maintenance work were moved to camps in Thailand
9 and later to Singapore en route to Japan."
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WILD

DIRECT

1 "The rescued men were on a ship which left
2 Singapore early in September 1944. There were prob-
3 ably 1300 United Kingdom and Australian prisoners
4 of war on board. After she was sunk, the Japanese
5 deliberately picked up all Japanese survivors but
6 left the prisoners to their fate. Statements of our
7 men constitute direct and unimpeachable evidence of
8 the outrageous treatment by the Japanese of defense-
9 less prisoners of war.

10 "I add that I communicated to His Excell-
11 ency Minister Suzuki in the letter dated November 18,
12 that the rescued men from Gakuyo Maru according to
13 British information, arrived in England and Austra-
14 lia and that a public announcement would be given in
15 both countries on the basis of the accounts of those
16 men as to the maltreatment accorded the prisoners of
17 war in Thailand and Burma."

18 Then, "Part II MATTERS OF INVESTIGATION

19 "General Outline

20 "By order of the Imperial General Head-
21 quarters, the preparations for the construction of this
22 railway were commenced in June 1942 by the South
23 Army with the view of using it as a ground supply
24 route and a trade and traffic one between Thailand
25 and Burma, being urged on by the proposal of the